

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
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c/o Indochina Refugee Action Center
 1424 16th Street, N.W., Suite 404
 Washington, D.C. 20036

June 24, 1983

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 Executive Registry
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Mr. William Casey
 Director
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

I am enclosing a draft initial appeal for contributions to establish a development loan fund for the Hmong and other highland refugees from Laos.

About 70,000 Hmong/highlander refugees are in the United States. You will see from the enclosed material that no special strategy for their resettlement was devised, despite our very close association with these people during the war years. Because of their continuing resettlement problems, we are considering the launching of an economic development loan fund to finance Hmong/highlander ventures which would not be supportable by conventional lending institutions.

Initially we will seek contributions from friends of the Hmong/highlanders in the United States -- people familiar with their extraordinary contribution. We believe that, through individual contributions, we can raise modest funds quickly. Naturally we hope that when the Fund is organized you will be able to be generous, but I am writing now to ask your help in introducing us to potential corporate and foundation sources of support.

We believe that the idea of a development loan fund -- especially one aimed at this particular group of refugees -- will be seen as an exciting innovation, complementing Federal assistance efforts. The loan fund concept emerged most recently from suggestions made by Hmong/highlander leaders from around the country at a February meeting in Washington. Serious funding support, however, will require effective entree to the foundations and corporate sector.

Would it be possible to meet or talk with you in the near future to get your best advice on this enterprise? My sabbatical grant ends next month and I will be posted abroad in the Foreign Service. I will endeavor therefore to contact you next week.

Thank you very much for your interest.

Sincerely,

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